

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated October 28, 2009. This amendment is responsive to the October 28, 2009 office action.

Applicant notes with the appreciation that the examiner considered claims 4, 8, 9, 12-14 and 15-20 directed to allowable subject matter. According to the examiner, claims 8-9 and 12-14 are allowed and claims 4 and 15-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim (applicant notes that claim 19 is in fact in independent form and since there are no art rejections the applicant will consider this claim as allowed). Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 16, including the base claim and any intervening claim which the examiner indicated would be allowable, and claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 15 and 17-18 directly depend from claim 1 and thus contain each and every element of claim 1 and consequently should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for claim 1. Reconsideration of this application as currently amended is requested.

The Art Matters

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 stand rejected under as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,555,396 to Alferness et al. (*hereinafter*, "Alferness"), U.S. Patent No. 5,926,458 to Yin (*hereinafter*, "Yin"), and US Patent No. 5,742,765 to Wong et al. (*hereinafter*, "Wong"). Claim 3 stands rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Alferness, Yin, and U.S. Patent No. 6,810,012 to Yin (*hereinafter*, "Yin'012"). Withdrawal of these rejections is requested for reasons that will now be set forth.


Claim 1, as currently amended, includes all of the elements of claim 16, including the base claim and any intervening claim, which the examiner indicated was allowable over the aforementioned references. Therefore, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3 and 6-7 directly depend from claim 1 and thus contain each and every element of claim 1 and consequently are allowable for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Conclusion

Withdrawal of the objections and rejections to this application is requested for the reasons set forth herein and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72255/00462.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-21-10


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